

OFFICIAL COPY

Fresno, California

June 10, 2002

The City Council met in special session at the hour of 6:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, on the day above written.

Present:	Tom Boyajian	Councilmember
	Brian Calhoun	Councilmember
	Brad Castillo	Acting President
	Jerry Duncan	Councilmember
	Sal Quintero	Councilmember
	Dan Ronquillo	Councilmember
	Henry Perea	Council President

Dan Hobbs, City Manager  
Hilda Cantu Montoy, City Attorney  
Becky Klisch, City Clerk  
Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk

**(6:00 P.M.) CONTINUED HEARING ON FY 2003 BUDGET**

**MAYOR'S OFFICE:**

Mayor Chief of Staff White reviewed the mission statement, accomplishments, FY 03 issues and challenges, the proposed budget, and advised the Office of Education (OE) was being broken off into a separate division in the Mayor's office for better management and monitoring of resources. Mayor Autry commented on the spirit of the city, partnership, the need for the right budget dollar amount to compete and keep the city going; expanded on the Office of Education stating it was critical for the city to take its lead roll in partnering with the public school system and keep the office going; advised of OE's accomplishments over its first short year stressing the benefits had demonstrated itself many times; and urged Council to continue with the OE stating the office has shown that connecting with the education community was the right thing to do and the city was much better off because of it. President Perea commended the Mayor for all he has done the past 1½ years and for working with Council as a team.

Gloria Torrez spoke to the need to invest in the poor, homeless and students, and reiterated her request for increased frequencies on bus line 38 and key lines, removal of the bus fare increase, clean air diesel buses, and FAX monies staying with FAX.

Councilmember Duncan complimented the Mayor on his OE stating the linkage of city government to school boards was working, and also commended Deputy Mayor Montero for his leadership abilities and explained.

Councilmember Calhoun stated he echoed most comments except for the OE; noted Fresno was a relatively poor city with limited resources and encouraged the Mayor to consider having a budget cornerstone in the next budget that mentions jobs or economic development; stated he felt the OE was inappropriate as he did not believe the city

should be allocating revenues to two positions devoted entirely to education; clarified the Mayor had outstanding staff who worked very hard to advance the Mayor's interest in education and their work was to be commended but he felt a budget that was not balanced could not afford the luxury of supporting staff that do not directly impact city services; commented on his interest and support for public education as a lifelong educator and elaborated; advised he has consistently supported not funding positions that don't directly impact city services and advised he would be encouraging Council to eliminate the current Council Analyst position; commented on the State of California's financial position; stated Council may not support his action to defund the OE effective December 31<sup>st</sup> but if they did he would recommend the Mayor request the Fresno Regional Foundation to fund a three-year model education consortium staffed by current OE staff and education, business and elected officials with the goal of improving public education and added he would assist in any way possible; and made a motion to defund the Office of Education positions effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. Upon call, the motion died for lack of a second.

Acting President Castillo commended the Mayor and his staff and noted the Mayor's agenda was something he felt passionate about; relative to the Mayor's State of City Address stated the Mayor spoke from the heart and did not have to apologize to anyone; and commented on the Mayor's taking on the issue of student absenteeism because of his passion for children.

Councilmember Boyajian stated he appreciated the open communication; advised he did not like taking education on as the Mayor has done; concurred education was an important issue but he felt a lot of the fault in education lied with politicians and explained; stated there was no collaboration with the education experts in the community; and commented on the need for jobs for kids and expressed concern with the problems facing the city such as the unemployment rate, need for alternative transportation, air quality and urban sprawl; stated an educational liaison was needed and he hoped the city could work with the school districts; and thanked the Mayor for all he's done adding the Mayor has been a good matador for the city .

President Perea referenced the tight budget and directed staff to place on the next agenda the issue of business tax loopholes as a possible way to increase revenues and explained. President Perea commented on problems, issues and his concerns relative to air quality and the region going to the extreme designation, growth direction and location for the new SCCCD's new community college, concern growth in city staffing with the decrease in revenues, his commitment to find \$3 million for neighborhoods, and his opposition to the decrease in social service funding.

**MOTION - President Perea/Ronquillo** - Move the \$200,000 for the Mayor's Summer Games into the social service funding for a total of \$700,000.

Relative to the \$67,000 commitment made to a new program in west Fresno President Perea stated he would be asking that \$67,000 also be moved back into social service funding to fund existing programs with proven track records.

Councilmember Ronquillo stated he was impressed with the general overall efforts of the Mayor's office and his standing behind important issues such as the stadium, downtown landscaping, and the airport expansion project, and spoke to the need for more of an effort in the area of business park development including funding and grant matching and elaborated.

(2 - 0) Mayor Autry responded to some of Council's comments and concerns and clarified his comments made during his State of the City speech, and stated the school system problem was big, it was a city issue, and he looked forward to partnering with the education community in every way to help within the system and that he would not back off his efforts to change the system. There was no further discussion.

#### **BACK TO PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

**MOTION** - President Perea/Ronquillo - Eliminate the 15% utility rate increase for commercial

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**

Public Works Director Williamson thanked his staff stating many changes had occurred over the past 22 months; introduced key staff in attendance; gave an overview of his department's budget including accomplishments, major issues in FY 2002, the FY 2003 budget, new revenue fees projected, and authorized positions, and along with City Manager Hobbs responded to questions of Councilmember Calhoun relative to whether staff was comfortable with the reorganization and if the reorganization was a move in the right direction, commendation to staff on the stadium project, total department funding/expenditures and if parking numbers were stable, total new projects, the Capital Improvement Program budget, the CIP wish list, and if there were any plans to fund the CDBG infrastructure projects that were put on hold. Councilmember Boyajian spoke to the need to continue with the neighborhood projects stating they were the key to his district and elaborated.

**MOTION** - Councilmember Boyajian/Perea - Bring back the 10 neighborhood projects.

Mr. Williamson responded to questions of Councilmember Boyajian relative to when the UGM fees would be increased, if best practices/other cities were looked at, status of relamping/street lights, fleet plans, full-time grant writer position, and cold recycling grants. Councilmember Boyajian made a motion to approve a full-time grant writer for the department, whereupon it was confirmed a full-time grant writer was included in the budget.

Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Williamson and Transportation Manager Madewell responded to questions and/or comments of Councilmembers Boyajian and Ronquillo relative to the \$250,000 transfer from parking to the general fund, Ashlan and Cornelia traffic signal, the change in the impression of city workers, commendation to staff for street improvements and tree trimming work, and proposal to convert McKenzie into a Boulevard and Community Medical Center's willingness to pay one half the cost.

**MOTION** - Councilmember Ronquillo/Boyajian - Appropriate necessary funding/staff time to convert McKenzie into a Boulevard in partnership with Community Medical Center.

**(3 - 0)** Councilmember Quintero thanked staff or all their work to improve and beautify District 5. Councilmember Duncan stated he was pleased to work with staff and very proud of them, and relative to comments on perceived lack of commitment to neighborhoods clarified there was almost a \$7 million commitment to neighborhoods between the 7-week project and council infrastructure budgets and elaborated, with Mr. Hobbs further clarifying the numbers and work. President Perea concurred the numbers needed to be understood in the proper context and clarified he was not being critical but he felt there needed to be a distinction between neighborhoods and that which supported neighborhoods and explained, and presented questions relative to the Sidewalks to Schools programs, need to restore funding for the 10 neighborhood projects, number of department vacancies, amount budgeted for anticipated pay raises, and commendation to staff for all their work and efforts, with Mr. Madewell, Mr. Hobbs and Budget Manager Lynch responding to questions and/or clarifying issues.

Mr. Williamson responded to questions of Acting President Castillo relative to total amount of monies transferred from Parks and Recreation for tree trimming and whether the funds were coming from a fund for median island trimming.

**MOTION - Councilmember Castillo/Perea** - Allocate the remaining \$358,00 for tree trimming to Street Maintenance from Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Williamson, Streets Manager Dilley and Mr. Hobbs responded to questions of Councilmember Boyajian relative to whether streets' budget was at the same level as last year, if the extra crew put on would keep working, how Streets could be at same level without the \$3 million in CDBG money, list of projects planned including when it was compiled and if Council's input was desired, cold recycling, less money for paving neighborhood streets, and need for neighborhood funds. There was no further discussion.

### **GENERAL CITY PURPOSE/SERVICES:**

City Manager Hobbs explained General City Purpose (GCP) and advised where the basic appropriations, breakdowns and key components were located in the budget, and along with Controller Quinto and Public Works Director Williamson responded to questions of Councilmembers Calhoun and Ronquillo and/or clarified issues relative to who would perform overall monitoring, GCP being the appropriate place for payments for Grundfos, Palm Bluffs, etc., concern with continued questions on economic development contracts and how to deal with them, request that payments on any contracts not be made unless they come before Council first, who would be monitoring the budget with the move of Mr. Burkhardt, direction to staff to revisit the issue of economic development contracts and provide a status report at the appropriate time, payment to Palm Bluffs and if it would be brought to Council for approval, if staff had conversed with Mr. Burkhardt on the deal with Palm Bluffs to save money, the Calcot/Palm Bluffs agreement scheduled for an upcoming agenda including protecting the city and plan to capture payment in a future bond issue if the city's obligation is too much for Measure C to bear, if the Controller was familiar with Mr. Burkhardt's discussions with Calcot/Palm Bluffs, amount of the payment, intent of Mello-Roos District, the intergovernmental relations division, and proposed appropriations for services assisting senior citizens and southwest Fresno programs.

**MOTION - Councilmember Ronquillo/Boyajian** - Match the \$15,000 in private funds raised for Fulton Mall art restoration (\*Note: On 6/11/02 Councilmember Ronquillo recommended the enterprise fund as the funding source)

Councilmember Ronquillo stated it was critical to match funds and explained and clarified the art belonged to the city.

Councilmember Calhoun questioned why approximately \$50,000 was targeted for an organization in southwest Fresno to conduct programs stating there were many worthy organizations with needs competing for city dollars and he felt these dollars should be competed for, with Mr. Hobbs responding **(4 - 0)**.

**MOTION - Councilmember Calhoun/Perea** - Move the \$67,000 covering the West Fresno Apprenticeship Job Training Program, Entrepreneurial Training Program, and the Downtown CDC Resident Housing Survey Program, with the Budget Committee to recommend redirection of funds.

There was no further discussion.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:**

Senior Budget Analyst Smith gave an overview of the new CIP five year plan, the various department's budgets, anticipated expenses, on-going projects, and advised staff would continue to refine the document.

Public Works Director Williamson and City Manager Hobbs clarified issues and/or responded to questions of Councilmember Boyajian and President Perea relative to who initiated the CIP wish list, if most projects were unfinanced, why \$128 million was proposed for projects north of Shaw, the plan being the first layout of needs and an excellent reference tool, setting priorities, development paying its way, why the cost for projects north of Shaw were so much higher than those south of Shaw, Council ultimately determining the priorities, the \$156 million in carry-over, staff's intent to meet with each council member on the project list, and looking to the CIP program for funding for the 10 neighborhood projects.

**MOTION - President Perea/Boyajian** - Move \$2.3 million from CIP Program to neighborhoods for new and on-going projects.

There was no further discussion.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
CITY COUNCIL

The above departments and budget hearing was continued to Tuesday, June 11, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to bring before the Council, the hour of 8:50 p.m. having arrived and hearing no objections, President Perea declared the meeting adjourned.

**APPROVED** on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002.

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Henry Perea, Council President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk